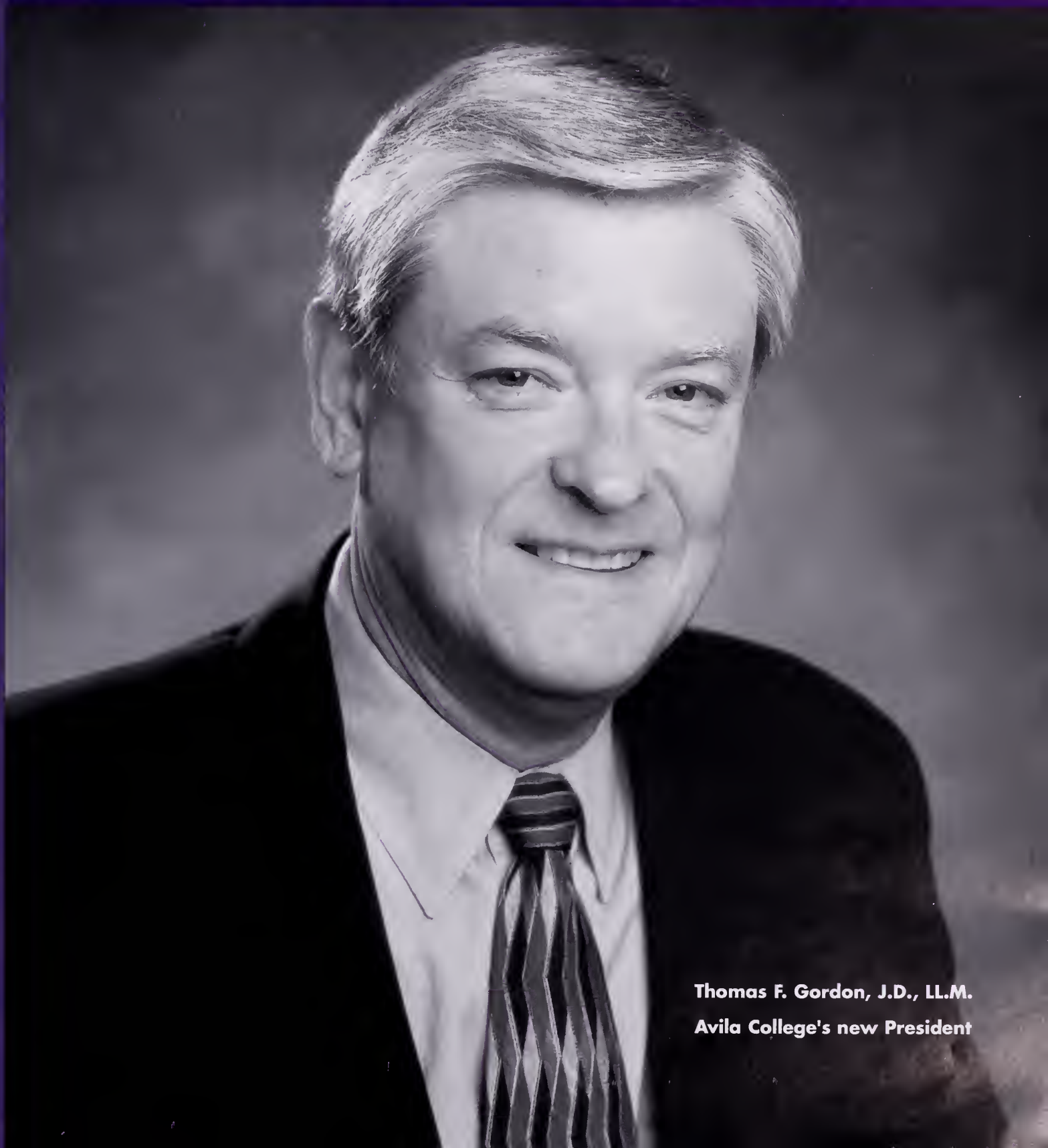
SPRING 2001

ACCENT

A MAGAZINE FOR AVILA COLLEGE ALUMNI, STUDENTS AND FRIENDS



Thomas F. Gordon, J.D., LL.M.
Avila College's new President

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

It hardly seems possible that it has been one year since I began to serve as the Interim President. During this time, the support from the community has been extraordinary, and for that I am most grateful. I thank the Board of Trustees for its confidence in me by now appointing me to be your president.

Avila has had an exciting year, and the best is yet to come. We just completed another successful Steer Dinner and Auction. The 25th Anniversary dinner provides thousands of dollars for student scholarships.

> Avila has had an exciting year, and the best is yet to come.

The month of May means graduation time at Avila. We say good-bye to an outstanding group of students who have embraced the mission, purposes, and values of Avila.

This past fiscal year, Avila has moved ahead dramatically with new and enhanced programs for our students and facilities to serve our increasing enrollment. The expanded Mabee Fieldhouse and the proposed Wellness Center are two excellent examples of our commitment to keep Avila growing.

It is my privilege to continue to serve Avila College. As always, I give my sincere thanks to you, our alumni, donors and friends, for your continuing and generous support.

Sincerely,

Thomas F. Gordon

Thomas F. Gordon, J.D., LL.M.
President

Thomas F. Gordon to be inaugurated September 29, 2001

The inauguration of Thomas F. Gordon as the President of Avila College will be Saturday, September 29, 2001. Gordon was appointed President of Avila College in January, 2001. A campus-wide committee has been formed to plan the September 29 events. Details of the inauguration will be announced in the near future.

Gordon had served as interim president of the college since January 15, 2000. An intensive search for a new president spanning seven months and including 43 applicants was conducted. The appointment was made by the Avila College Board of Trustees.

A former law partner in the law firm of Gordon & Gordon, he has been active at Avila College for a number of years in a variety of programs and projects. Gordon served as general counsel for the college since 1977, was a member of the Board of Trustees from 1991 to 1999, and was a member of the Avila Board of Counselors from 1978 to 1990.

Gordon becomes the third president *(see chart below)* to serve the college since it moved to 119th and Wornall Road and changed its name from The College of St. Teresa to Avila College. Since the college's founding in 1916 there have been 12 Presidents of whom 10 were Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet. ■

Presidents of St. Teresa College

Sister Mary Irene O'Hara, CSJ
Sister Mary Pius Neenan, CSJ
Sister Marietta Jennings, CSJ
Sister Marcella Casey, CSJ
Sister Simplicia Dailey, CSJ
Sister Marietta Jennings, CSJ
Sister Mary Berenice O'Neill, CSJ
Sister Mary Alfred Noble, CSJ
Sister Mary Daniel Tammany, CSJ

Presidents of Avila College

1961-1985
Sister Olive Louise Dallavis, CSJ

1985-2000
Larry Kramer, Ed.D.

2001-
Thomas F. Gordon, J.D., LL.M

Avila Advantage Starts Psychology Degree

By Tekia Thompson

In continuing with Avila's history of undergraduate Psychology degree excellence, Avila Advantage has added an accelerated Psychology degree to their degree completion program. After listening to inquiries from several Avila Advantage students about an undergraduate degree in Psychology, Dr. Maria Hunt, Associate Professor of Psychology, brainstormed ways in which Avila Advantage students could obtain a quality undergraduate degree in Psychology at an accelerated pace.

"I heard a lot of adult students complaining about not having enough time or energy to get an undergraduate degree in Psychology because they were working in the day and taking care of children," says Hunt.

Hunt found Avila Advantage students to be of a different mind set than that of traditional college undergraduates. "They have a bit more perspective on life. They recognize what happens when one does not have a college degree," Hunt says. "They are just more self-motivated."

"I am so pleased that as a faculty we are able to reach out and cater to the needs of our students,"

With the support of the college and her colleagues, Hunt created a curriculum module for the program. The undergraduate degree will focus on two of the three tracks offered in the Psychology department including the basic core requirements. Advantage students will take 12 hours in the Human Behavior Concentration and 15 hours in the Organizational Dynamic Concentrations. The third track, Pre-Professional, is according to Hunt too difficult to complete in an accelerated format. Hunt's hope is that students who complete the program will use their degree to make themselves more marketable among big businesses. "Companies are now looking for employees who are just as good with people as they are with the business side of things," Hunt said.

Courses are structured in 8-week, 5-week, and weekend intensive formats. Classes may be scheduled every week, at times that are most convenient for students. "I am so pleased that as a faculty we are able to reach out and cater to the needs of our students," Hunt says. ■

Montessori School Wheels & Deals for New Playground

By Emma-mai Harris

Avila Montessori Pre-School received a partial grant of $5,000 from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources to purchase 15.5 tons of recycled tires. The ground tires were used to enhance safety and provide a more durable playground for the children.

Director of Health and Child Services Carol Frevert said they have seen instances of playground injury decrease. "The playground was covered with wood chips before, and the kids would have splinters and bruises," says Frevert.

The recycled tires provide cushioning and support for the children. "When the kids fall, they slide. If feels like you're on a trampoline," says Frevert.

The tires cover approximately 1,600 square feet of play area around the children's equipment. It is 100% Missouri tires, and it complies with the requirement of the DNR proposed vendor to cover 8" in depth on the playground.

Avila Montessori Pre-School program and child care service has been in operation for more than 20 years. It provides high-quality instruction and supervision to approximately 80 students each year, ranging from two to seven years old. ■

THE TIRES COVER APPROXIMATELY 1,600 SQUARE FEET OF PLAY AREA AROUND THE CHILDREN'S EQUIPMENT.

Hawaiian Culture and Nature: Avila's First Course in Paradise

By Erin Barnes, *Talon* Staff Writer

The tropical climate, a small island off the coast of Oahu. The land and sky, as bright as a watercolor portrait. The warmth of the sun pulls each visitor off the plane and embraces them with 80 degree weather.

For a few Avila students, this scene painted the perfect atmosphere for a class environment. Set miles away from the traditional backdrop of a class structure of small wooden desks and cold brick walls, the "Hawaiian Culture and Nature: A History of Invasions" course placed students in the environment instead of bringing it to them through books.

"A course like this really can't be done in a classroom in Kansas City," says David Wissmann, Professor of Sociology.

For nine days during their spring break vacation, 28 students stayed at the University of Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology and inhabited tiny Coconut Island.

Each of the students who took part in the class were asked to observe cultural and environmental changes through the theme of invasions by animals, plants and people.

"Hawaii has constantly been undergoing change and revision," Wissmann says. "We were very interested in what that meant."

Every day, students spent up to 12 hours studying the Hawaiian culture under three different areas: terrestrial biology, marine biology, and Hawaiian cultural topics. Wissmann and Bob Powell, Professor of Biology, led the students through various daily activities which ranged from standard classroom discussions to on-site, underwater research projects.

This was the first educational class of its kind offered at Avila, and due to its apparent success, probably won't be the last.

"Our immediate plan is to do a similar course in Jamaica, possibly as early as fall 2002," says Wissmann. ■

During an expedition, Dr. Bob Powell investigates local wildlife.

Students take time to pose on the beach at Coconut Island.

Channel 41 Donates Anchor Desk

By Megan Bridge

This semester students in the communication department are sitting pretty. News Channel 41 has donated their beautiful mahogany news set to Avila College, giving the Dallavis TV Studio a more professional look.

News Broadcast Writing, Video Production, and Media Production classes are taking advantage of the new atmosphere the set provides.

Students broadcasting over Avila's college television station, ATV, have made great use of the news set while conducting newcasts, interview shows, sportscasts and talk shows.

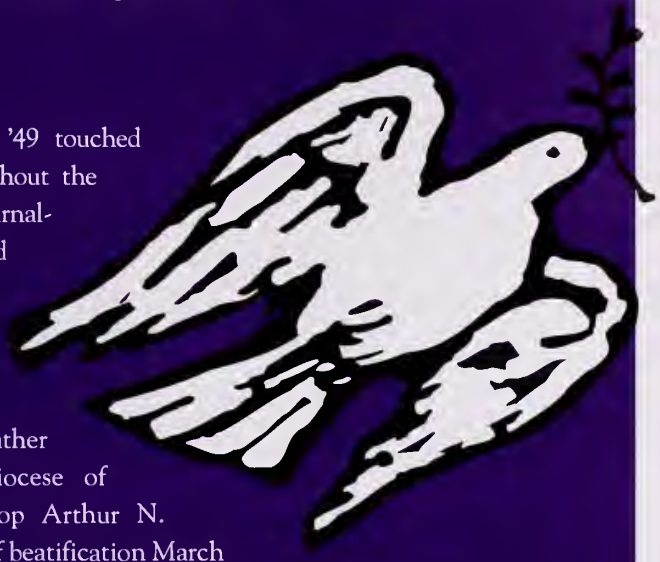
Avila Communications Students pose behind the donated anchor desk.

"We are very excited to be a recipient of Channel 41's generosity. This donation helps our communication department rise to the next level," says Dr. Dotty Hamilton, Communication Program Director.

John Baccala, Channel 41 reporter and adjunct instructor for Avila, approached Hamilton with the offer. Art students from the Corporate ID Design class have designed logos that replace the Channel 41 News logo. ■

Geraldine Carrigan '49 — A Future Avila Saint?

By Denise Bradshaw



Geraldine Carrigan '49 touched many lives throughout the world with her journalistic and missionary work. And many think Carrigan's work is worthy of a saint.

Carrigan died on March 18, 2000. Upon her death, Father Robert Hagan of the Diocese of Pueblo, Colo., asked Bishop Arthur N. Tafoya to begin the process of beatification March 18, 2005. The process involves an intensive examination of the life, writings and reputation of Carrigan. She could receive the title "blessed" if she becomes beatified. Beatification is a step toward canonization and being named a "saint."

After graduating from Avila in 1949, Carrigan earned her master's degree in sacred theology from the School of Sacred Theology, St. Mary's College, Notre Dame, Ind., in 1957.

Throughout her career in journalism, Carrigan worked for *Integrity Magazine*, *The Kansas City Star*, *The Independence Examiner*, *The Catholic Reporter*, *The National Catholic Reporter* and *New People*.

Carrigan was nominated for sainthood because of her lifelong devotion to God and people. In New York she promoted the American St. Bonfice German Relief Society and spent many hours volunteering at Dorothy Day's Catholic Worker House and Baroness De Hueck's Harlem Friendship House.

When she moved back to Kansas City, she edited the biography of Archbishop Edwin O'Hara and started a community center in Old St. Patrick parish. Then in 1958, Carrigan was able to travel to Japan to edit *Oriens*, a multi-language magazine. She also held seminars on T.S. Elliot's poetry and interfaith seminars.

She was then able to hold seminars and retreats for diocesan women from Third World countries in Lourdes, France.

Carrigan ended her career in Pueblo, Colorado. She began the Catholic Charismatic Movement with her uncle, Jesuit Father George Andrews. The movement was founded to create unity in the church.

Her final act occurred when she founded the Abba House of Prayer which served as a spiritual center and house of prayer. It provided a religious books and goods store, a sacramental chapel, counseling, ministry and prayer services. ■

Got Mail?

Have You Moved?

Do We Have Your E-Mail Address?

Please give us an update on your information so we can keep you up to date on Avila College! Simply cut this section out and mail to:

Alumni Office
Avila College
11901 Wornall Road
Kansas City, MO 64145

Name _____

Maiden _____

Class Year _____

Address _____

_____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Interests _____

_____

_____

Communication Professor's Film Screened in New York and Hungary.

Dr. Ben Meade's film, "Privilege" made in 2000, features Avila College Students, and has been accepted to the New York International Independent Film and Video Festival. It was screened at Madison Square Garden on March 31, 2001, in New York City.

Privilege was also screened in Pecs, Hungary at the Laterna Magyar Filmhet: REAL ES SZURREAL March 15-19, 2001, and was shown on Hungarian television during the week. ■

2001 Steer Dinner Wr

A major sponsor, Mary Beth Meyers with Avila College President, Tom Gordon

Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Esther Mills with her husband Allen Service.

Student, Tekia Thompson poses with Communication Instructor Kasey Riley and Student, Megan Bridge.

Honorary Co-Chairs, Michael & Emmy Morrissey with Karen & Jack Holland, Trustee, and President Tom Gordon

Enjoying the dinner are: Instructor Kasey Riley, Avila College's newest Alumni Director, Morten Klinte, Linda Shaffer '86, Arthur Shaffer, Lisa Gioia '81, Derek Feagans '95 with guest Heather Anderson, Greg Lever '85 with guest Michelle Rood.

Sister Suzanne Giblin '58, CSJ poses with Acting Vice President for Advancement, Mary Ellen Clark '73 and Sister Paulette Gladis, CSJ former Business department chairperson and MBA program founder.

ap-up

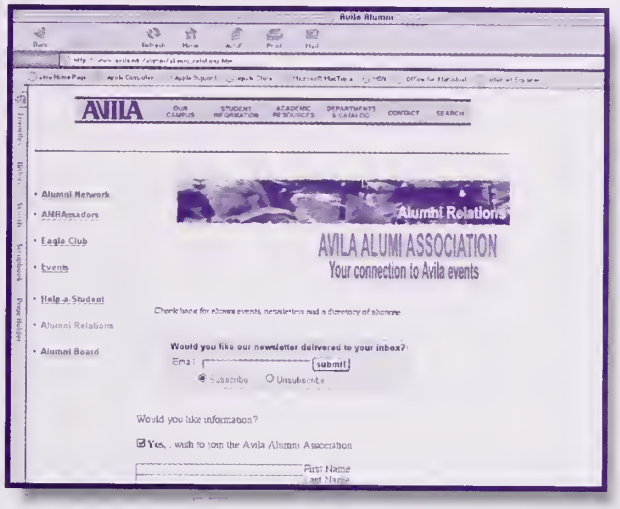
For our 25th year, the color of the night was silver and our favorite number was 25! From a silver tea service, and parties for 25, to $25,000 for a wireless classroom, we celebrated this anniversary in a special way. At this year's gala, we raised well over $250,000 for student scholarships and institutional funds. With the help of a significant gift from DST and generous bidders, this fall Avila College will be the first four-year college in the area to have a wireless classroom.

Again, Mary Beth Meyers was a very special friend to our students, joined by many generous donors including the **Sisters of St. Joseph, Mike and Emmy Morrissey, Foster-Powers Charitable Trust, Ernst & Young, J.M. Fahey Construction Co.,** and **Neal and Jeanne Lillig-Patterson.**

Avila was proud to recognize **Mike and Emmy Morrissey** as this year's Honorary Chairpersons. ■

Electronic Newsletter in the Works

How can we communicate more often with our Alumni without straining the budget? The answer is an electronic newsletter sent by way of email. As a result of last year's Alumni survey we obtained about 1,500 email addresses which have been entered into our system. The newsletter will hold information regarding upcoming events and activities, and hopefully will serve as a tool for communication between the Alumni office and you. The options for the content are endless.



The challenge, however, is to find a suitable name for this newcomer to the Alumni Association. We ask you, our Alumni, to mail us suggestions for what to call the newsletter.

Furthermore, we are in the process of expanding our Alumni Relations Web Page, and in that context we also would like some feedback from you regarding what you would like to see when visiting the alumni site. How about chat-rooms to talk to other alumni, registration for events, finding old friends through on-line directory, or even making donations for our scholarship fund on a secure line?

Please E-mail suggestions for the name of the new Avila newsletter to Morten Klinte, Director of Alumni Relations and Annual Fund at KlinteM@mail.Avila.edu. ■

Alumni Director, Special Events Coordinator Hired in Advancement Staff

The Avila College Advancement Department is pleased to announce the addition of **Morten Klinte as Director of Alumni Relations and Annual Fund**, and **Serena Aernie as Special Events Coordinator.**

Klinte, a native of Denmark, has been working in fundraising for several years at Doctors Without Borders, an international AIDS relief organization to send relief to areas of war and poverty. He looks forward to communicating on a more frequent basis with Avila's alumni, and taking that communication to the next level by moving into the on-line realm.

Aernie comes to Avila from City Union Mission, where she served as the volunteer coordinator. She has several years experience in special events, including events for City Union Mission, Temporary Lodging for Children, and Hannibal-LaGrange College.

Stop by the Advancement department to meet our new staff.

To contact Morten Klinte, call (816) 501-2422, or e-mail KlinteM@mail.Avila.edu.

To contact Serena Aernie, call (816) 501-2450, or e-mail AernieSR@mail.Avila.edu.

Mabee Fieldhouse Expansion Begins

By Megan Redenbaugh

The Mabee Fieldhouse expansion began December 12 with a groundbreaking ceremony. Members of HNTB Architecture and JE Dunn Construction Company responsible for designing and building the plans were among the guests who attended this event. Jim Willcox, Chair of the Board of Trustees, gave a welcome at the ceremony. Avila's Executive Committee was also in attendance, as Joe Deighton, Vice President and Dean for Student Affairs gave a project overview and Sister Marie Joan Harris, Vice President and Dean for Academic Affairs gave a prayer and blessing. Others that attended were the Athletic Director, Gary Sharpe, and the Physical Plant Manager, David Gebauer.

In his project overview, Deighton described the expansion as the culmination of the vision, dreams, and hard work of many people at Avila, along with partners and friends in the community, including JE Dunn Construction and HNTB Architects & Engineers. He also explained that the expansion is a continuation of the spirit, dedication, and mission of Avila's founders, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet.

The additions to Mabee Fieldhouse will include 12 new athletic offices, a meeting/recruitment room with a glass front to offer a view of the playing surface below, new locker rooms, a 1,900 square foot weight room facility, a multipurpose room for dance, aerobics or meetings, a new athletic training area, and an elevated walking/jogging track. The expansion is approximately a 15,100 square foot addition to the existing Fieldhouse, which is currently about 26,000 square feet.

According to Deighton, the corners of the building will be enhanced with new glass wall corner structures to improve the natural lighting in the building and the overall aesthetic look of the building. A new main entrance will be established on the northern most edge of the building, directly across from the Whitfield entrance.

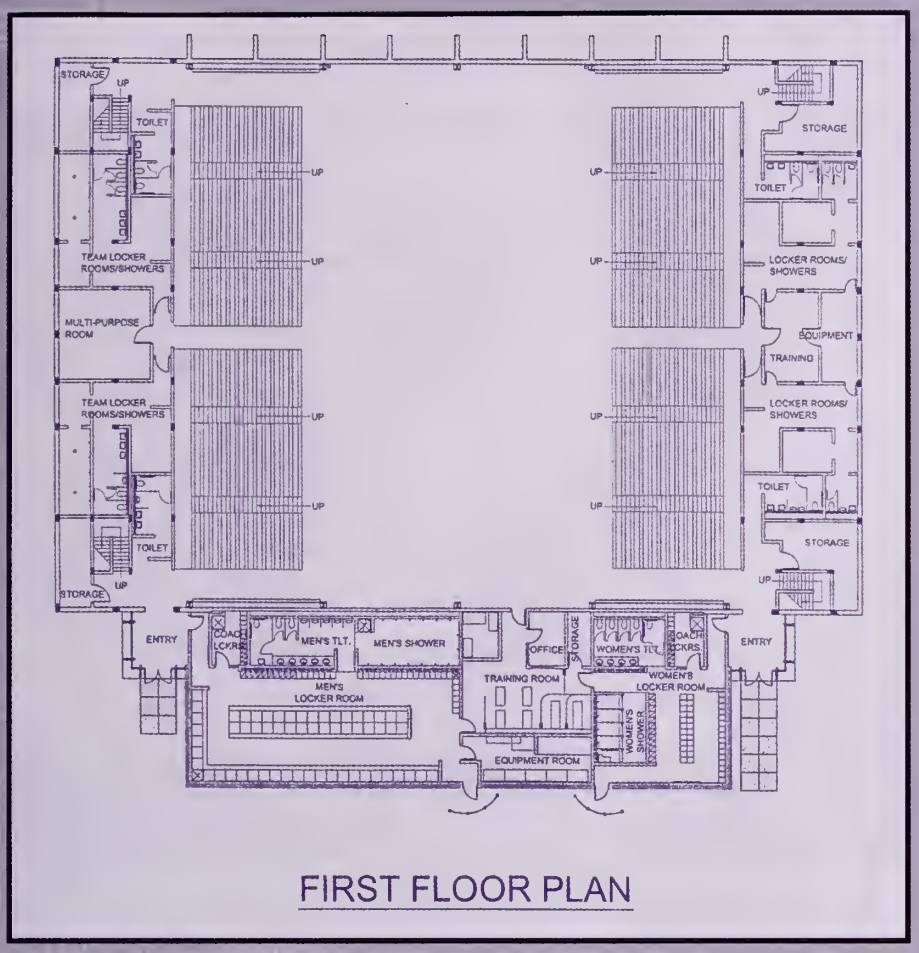
The expansion and new facilities are intended not only to enhance the current facility, but also to allow Avila to better serve the student athletes, the entire student body, and ultimately the surrounding community. The project is scheduled to be completed in August 2001 for use and occupancy for the Fall 2001 semester. ■

(Left to Right):

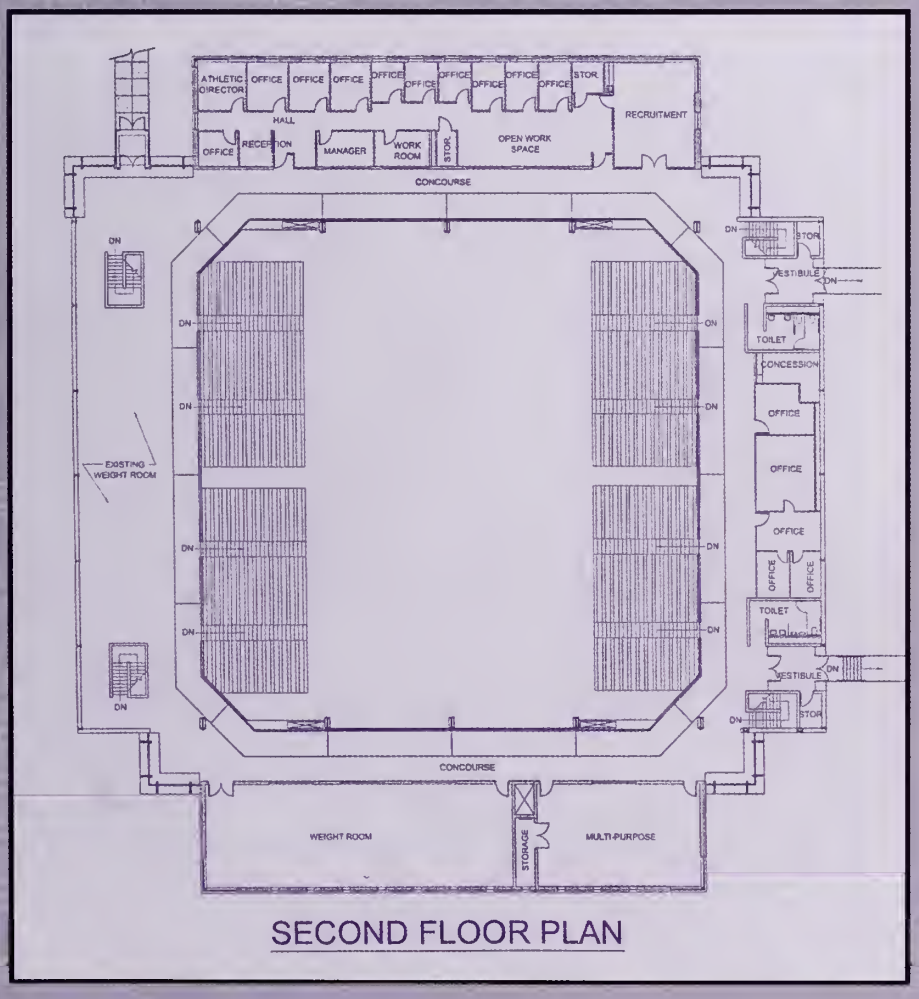
Jim Willcox, *Avila College Board of Trustees President*
Bill Dunn, Jr., *Senior Vice President, J E Dunn Construction*
Ryan Quackenbush, *Student-Athlete, Avila College*
Mary Ellen Clark, '73 *Acting Vice President for Advancement, Avila College*
Luis Guillen, *J E Dunn Construction, Project Manager*
Harold Wilson, *J E. Dunn Construction, General Superintendent*
Dave Gebauer, *Chief Maintenance Engineer, Avila College*
Steve Golubski, *J E Dunn Construction, Senior Project Manager*
Dave Disney, *Senior Vice President, J E Dunn Construction*
Linda Hanson, *Firstar Bank*
Helen Jane Wald, '46 *Alumni Board President*

(Left to Right):

Jim Willcox, *Avila College Board of Trustees President*
Joe Deighton, *Vice President for Student Affairs, Avila College*
Matt Kauffman, *HNTB, Project Architect*
Becky Zahner, *Vice President, HNTB*
Sister Marie Joan Harris, *Vice President for Academic Affairs, Avila College*
Bill Dunn, Jr., *Senior Vice President, J E Dunn Construction*
Harold Wilson, *J E Dunn Construction, General Superintendent*
Fred Geer, *Professor and Student-Athlete Representative, Avila College*
Ryan Quackenbush, *Student-Athlete, Avila College*
Linda Hanson, *Firstar Bank*
Gary Sharpe, *Athletic Director, Avila College*



FIRST FLOOR PLAN



SECOND FLOOR PLAN

You Can Help Athletics At Avila!

It's an exciting time to be a part of Avila College Athletics! With the introduction of intercollegiate football and a move into the Heart of America Athletic Conference, Avila College Athletics needs your support.

There are many ways to become involved in the athletic program, and each is greatly appreciated by the student-athletes.

One of the best ways you can help is to become a fan. Schedules for upcoming events are posted on the Avila College website, and listed in the *Accent* prior to each season.

If you would like to support the athletic program financially, the Eagle Club has been restructured to offer more financial levels of involvement and more opportunities for you to be personally involved. The proceeds of the Eagle Club are used to advance the Athletic Department, and will help create a memorable experience for the student-athletes.

Another way to support athletics at Avila is to help build a proud tradition. Nominate an outstanding alumni athlete for the Hall of Fame. Nominees must have made a significant contribution to the athletic programs at Avila and experienced a five-year time lapse since their participation in intercollegiate athletics.

For more information on how you can help, contact Nick Totta, Assistant Athletics Director, at (816) 501-3743. And you can follow the Eagles on-line at www.Avila.edu.

Visit Avila's website,
www.Avila.edu.

Alumni UPDATE

1940's

James and Patricia Walsh-Ferris, '49 married May 20th 1950, celebrated their 50th anniversary last year.

1970's

Edward T. House, '75, recently retired from the Arkansas Parole & Probation Department, was re-elected to a third term as city Councilman in Mountain Home, Arkansas.

1990's

Nikki L. Pittmann-Rice, '96, '00 was honored in "Who's Who Among American Teachers" for the year 2000 publication. Ms. Rice is the daughter of Dennis W. Pittman '89 and Kathy Pittman '92.

ENGAGEMENTS

Kristin Marie Kemper, '00, and Steven Gregory Feese, have announced their engagement. The couple plans a June 16, 2001 wedding at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church.

DEATHS

John T. "Jack" Nestor, '84, passed away Tuesday, February 13, 2001, at home. Mr. John Nestor was a former President of Avila College Parent Association.

Patricia Walsh-Ferris '49 sister, **Dorothy Ann Walsh-Hartmann,** passed away on February 4, 2001 in Irvine, California.

Sr. Germaine J. Matter (formerly known as Sister Rita Agnes), died March 11, 2001 at St. Anthony's Medical Center. She was 91, a former Avila professor of French and a sister of St. Joseph of Carondelet.

Winter Sports Wrap-up

With the move into the Heart of America Athletic Conference (HAAC), Avila College basketball followed in the footsteps of the fall sports by facing a challenging field of competition.

The strong Avila College women's basketball team began the 2000 season after 1999 conference success in the Midlands Collegiate Athletic Conference (MCAC), finishing second overall, and even gaining national attention with the second-ranked defense in the nation. But their overall record dropped from 22-9 in 1999 to 7-24 in the 2000-01 season.

The men's basketball team was able to improve their record both overall and in conference, and seemed to be more competitive, with an average loss margin of only six points. The men's team finished tenth of 11 teams in the HAAC, compared to sixth of seven in the MCAC a year earlier.

"We were a better team than we were before, but we moved into a more difficult league with the HAAC. So, even though we were better, it didn't show up on the record. We lost a lot of close games. We only have one senior graduating this year, so with a good recruiting class, we can continue our upward progress," says Nick Totta, Head Men's Basketball Coach.

	'99 Overall	'99 MCAC	'00 Overall	'00 HAAC
Men's Basketball:	5-27	3-9	7-26	5-15
Women's Basketball:	22-9	9-3	7-24	1-19

Avila College expands bridge program in leadership role.

The Upward Bound program at Avila College helps eligible students reach their academic goals through a proven college preparation program. Avila, in conjunction with the United States Department of Education, formed a partnership with Grandview High School, Raytown High School, and Southeast High School to assist high school students who have college goals. In this program, Avila College is able to help students who have the ability to attend college, but do not have the support necessary to succeed.

Avila is able to take a leadership position among similar programs by helping students find the best financial aid packages at any college.

Upward Bound students must meet United States Department of Education family income guidelines and/or they must be potential first-generation college students (neither parent graduated from a four-year college).

This bridge program between high school and post-secondary studies has been found to be highly successful. Students who participate in the Upward Bound program are four times more likely to complete a college education than similar students who do not participate.

While this program is not new to Avila College, an adaptation of this program is. Thanks to a recent grant from the MAEOPP (Mid-America Association of Educational Opportunity Program Personnel) Foundation, the Upward Bound program has been expanded. The MAEOPP Foundation seeks to serve persons who have an active interest in broadening accessibility to and success in formal post-secondary education — a mission closely related to Avila's own mission.

The Upward Bound staff is helping similar programs across the country by providing professional financial aid training. Now, Avila is able to take a leadership position among similar programs by helping students find the best financial aid packages at any college. This grant helps complete a cycle of serving disadvantaged students and making their college dreams a reality. ■

The Resurrection

Sister Marcella Marie Holloway was chair of the English department and taught at the College of St. Teresa from 1947-63, when she moved to Fontbonne College in St. Louis. In 1988, Sister retired from Fontbonne as Professor Emerita. During her professional years, Sister Marcella was a prolific writer; her works include plays, short stories, articles, and poems. Her poems appeared in a variety of publications and several received prestigious awards.

In order to preserve these exceptional poems and make them available to lovers of poetry, a team of Avila alumni and staff members plans to publish a volume of Sister Marcella's poems in autumn 2001. Entitled *And Still He Comes*, the volume will include 45 poems comprising Part I of the collected Holloway poems.

Proceeds from the sale of the book will go into a fund for the newly established Sister Marcella Marie Holloway Scholarship to be awarded to students in the English department. Further details about this project will appear in the next *Accent*.

The Resurrection

Love's force is stronger than the pull of dark;
It can level mountains, raise the dead
To a new life, and strengthen weary feet
To walk on waters, piled rough waves of night.

Its breath can blow the dying coals to light
A tunnel black as pitch and radiate
The way round pitfalls and sucking sands
Even to the long, long corridor's end.

Chain this force in tomb with rock-seal tight,
Beat it level on Friday's cross and still
After three days He rises above
The morning sun in Tabor splendor.

See how He moves un-hindered through barred doors,
All His glory stamped on hand and foot and side;
Balm to festered sores of Calvary,
Free from binding shroud and fastening nails.

SISTER MARCELLA MARIE HOLLOWAY

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Communication Students Judge OMNI Awards

Students in the Communication Campaigns course joined some of the top advertising professionals in the world as judges for the Kansas City Advertising Club's annual OMNI Awards. The students judged 86 entries in the television category, and were then invited to attend the awards presentation. Pictured at the awards were *(from left)*: Kasey Riley, Communication instructor, students Megan Bridge, Fumiko Hara, and Denise Bradshaw, and Communication Campaigns instructor Karl Yehle.

Gordon Haynes, MSCP Grad, Participates in Book Panel

Gordon Haynes, a 1996 graduate of the Master of Science in Counseling Psychology program, recently participated in the *Kansas City Star's* book panel at the Writer's Place in Kansas City. Haynes evaluated Ha Jin's *Waiting*, a book that tells the story of a doctor who has tried to divorce his wife (unsuccessfully) for two decades. It is set against the backdrop of China's proletarian cultural revolution.

Shari Blank Wins Education Award

During the 2000 Governor's Conference on Higher Education, Avila Advantage Program instructor Shari Blank was honored with the 2000 Governor's Award for Excellence in Teaching. The recipients were selected by their institutions for their effective teaching and advising, service to the school community, commitment to high standards of excellence, and success in nurturing student achievement.

John Kopecky, MBA Alumnus and Adjunct Faculty Member Featured

Kansas City Star columnist Jerry Heaster recently featured MBA graduate and adjunct faculty member John Kopecky, Senior Vice President of Country Club Bank. Kopecky was sponsored by the U.S. Government and private supporters as a consultant for the Financial Services Volunteer Corps on a trip to Russia.

During the discussions, Kopecky was asked by Russian bankers about the best ways to launder money. He found out quickly that it was not an ice-breaking joke, but instead, an inside-view of Russia's troubled financial system.

As Heaster's column says, "Until the Russian economic structure can begin respecting and nurturing the values that have made market economics work in the west, Kopecky believes, it will be difficult to build a trustworthy financial system able to bring economic strength and political stability."

DEAR ALUMNI DEAR ALUMNI DEAR ALUMNI DEAR ALUMNI

LETTER FROM THE ALUMNI PRESIDENT

Linking the past to the present

AVILA COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION LEADERSHIP: GREG LEVER '85, PRESIDENT ELECT; HELEN JANE GRAY WALD '46, PRESIDENT; NEIL KELLY '85, PAST PRESIDENT; AND MORTEN KLINTE, ALUMNI DIRECTOR

Dear Fellow Alumni,

As a graduate from the Windmoor campus, I remember singing the college song. "In the springtime of our learning, we have found a welcome here, at the college of St. Teresa, now our alma mater dear." Many years later the song hasn't lost its importance. Avila College still unifies many of our graduates. This was demonstrated by a large turnout at a recent Windmoor Society luncheon on April 17th where Sr. Martha Smith, CSJ, '49 and Carol Coburn presented their book "Spirited Lives," which tells the story of how nuns shaped Catholic culture and American life.

The luncheon has served as an opportunity to bring graduates from the old campus to Avila, where they can hear about Avila's newest educational trends and activities, or catch up on old times with friends. It is events like these that keep the spirit of the college song alive.

Today, many alumni are serving the community as mentors, consultants and supporters of athletic, cultural, spiritual and social events. As president, I wish to thank you and encourage you to continue to support all of alumni activities. Finally, may Avila's song be a lasting and enduring motivator for allegiance to the college.

"Raise high the sound anew for Avila:
Let our spirits build as a wind to stir and
conquer; may each challenge be fulfilled!"

Sincerely,

Helen Jane Gray Wald '46, *Alumni Association President*

Alumni EVENTS Calendar

July 17, 2001 .....18th Annual Golf Classic
September 8, 2001.....Tailgate Party
September 29, 2001 .....Presidential Inauguration
October 5-7, 2001.....Homecoming

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